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## PREFACE

The papers and addresses published in this volume were presented at the National Conference held at Columbia University in New York City on June 5th, called by the Academy of Political Science and constituting the semi-annual meeting of the 39th year of that organization. The purpose of the Program Committee in organizing the work and program of the Conference was to bring together in two brief sessions, and in the papers submitted to be read by title, as many different points of view as possible for the elucidation and critical discussion of the more important problems involved in the proposed Covenant of the League of Nations. At the time these speakers were invited and these papers and addresses were prepared the full text of the peace treaty was not available in this country. Only the official text of the preliminary reported draft and that of the Covenant as finally adopted at the plenary session of the Peace Conference had been presented officially to the United States Senate as submitted by Senator Key Pittman, published as a Senate Document, and reprinted as an appendix to this volume.

Only the general aspects of the Covenant and a few of the more important points of departure for its thorough-going examination in its bearing on the new international obligations of the United States arising under the Covenant, could be tentatively considered in the absence of the full treaty by the distinguished publicists who addressed this conference. The members of the Academy, teachers and leaders of public opinion, American statesmen, editors and public speakers, who will be called upon during the next few months to pass upon the most important document affecting our national life since the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, will find in these pages a stimulating and constructive aid in arriving at a scientific and sound judgment.

It is, of course, the function of the Academy in its efforts to render this kind of service to present independently, fearlessly and in a non-partisan spirit both sides or as many points of view on controverted questions as may find worthy expression from those entitled to a public hearing. The authors of these papers and addresses are alone responsible for the views therein expressed.

The Conference was very well attended. Representatives of many other organizations including chambers of commerce and business

as well as professional bodies deeply concerned in these matters of national importance were present by invitation, and the eagerness and appreciation of the large audiences who listened to the addresses delivered at the Conference, furnish ample evidence of the virility of our American national life and of the advantages and necessity of ample opportunity for the freest possible discussion of public questions in a real democracy.

The thanks of the Academy are due to those who participated in the program and to the members of the following committees whose individual cooperation contributed so much to its success:

Program Committee — Samuel McCune Lindsay, chairman *ex-officio*, Nicholas Murray Butler, Stephen P. Duggan, Abram I. Elkus, Franklin H. Giddings, Frederick A. Goetze, Charles D. Hazen, Charles E. Hughes, Adolph Lewisohn, Howard L. McBain, V. Everit Macy, William P. Merrill, Dwight W. Morrow, Henry R. Mussey, Herbert Parsons, George A. Plimpton, William L. Ransom, Henry R. Seager, E. R. A. Seligman, Albert Shaw, William R. Shepherd, Munroe Smith, George W. Wickersham.

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